

HARD TIMES HAVE ALARMED M'KINLEY.

President Says an Administration Bill to Reform the Currency Will Be Presented to Congress on June 21.

Secretary Gage's Ideas, as Outlined in the Journal, Will Be Followed and a Commission to Consider the Subject Provided For.

Washington, June 7.—President McKinley's opinion is that the two main things needful to relieve the business depression and restore prosperity are the passage of the tariff bill and the enactment of a measure for financial reform. He said to-day that he expects to give the American people, as a Fourth of July present, the Administration Tariff act.

On or about June 21, he said further, an Administration bill will be presented to reform the currency. This bill will embrace in substance the features contained in the Journal dispatch this morning concerning Secretary Gage's efforts.

The measure will provide for a commission of from eleven to fifteen members to consider the subject and to report its conclusions to Congress at its session beginning next December.

Speaker Reed says it will not take more than one week to pass such a bill in the House. What progress it will make in the Senate, with the opposition united and against all financial legislation except in the interest of silver, cannot now be foreshadowed.

WARNING AT PITTSBURG.

A. H. Lewis Points Out the Danger in Conditions That Have Driven the Iron Workers There to Throw Up Their Jobs.

By Alfred Henry Lewis.

PITTSBURG, June 7.—Yesterday I wrote you of the Jones-Laughlin Company, Limited; how with 3,200 men, paid variously \$1.25, \$1.50 a day, and \$90 or less a month, it had ordered a 10 per cent "cut"; and how the 3,200 men, unable to bear further faradels of that sort, had gone on strike, walked out, laid down their work weapons, arms of peaceful war, and surrendered themselves prisoners to idleness. I told you of the "company store" and its bleedings; of the "company cottages" and their bleedings; of Jones's palace—worth a round million this, or I've no eye for real estate—and Jones's failure to "cut" himself 10 per cent.

I told you, too, and want to tell you again, that the Jones-Laughlin Company, Limited, are reputed among the very best and kindest employers of their class—their own striking men say this—and have had much labor vogue and high repute for "generous treatment" of their work folk. It is for this very benevolent reputation that I seize on Jones-Laughlin, Limited, as illustrative of a train of thought that is bound to come to all who with their own eyes view the pain, the want, the squalid suffering that accompany the task of living—for living is to them a task full of disappointment and dark failure—to thousands of the work folk who are borne for hire on the Jones-Laughlin Company, Limited, books; and those of thousands of others of kindred "companies" and trusts, while protection hogs are squealing with a vociferous greed about the tariff trough at Washington asking by every porcine sign and sound for "More! more! more!"

The Lesson of the Workmen.

Let you come with me among their workmen and their families and note how they fare. Observe how the fight trends on this crowded part of the battlefield of existence, and learn something of the daily life of these privates in the ranks of trust war. I have been among the tollmen of the Jones-Laughlin Company, of Carnegie at Homestead, and of other corporate vultures I will not name. Nor do I purpose calling these employers of other men names; I fear me much they are arraigning themselves for much worse treatment.

I went among these work people. I saw them. I saw their "homes"—save the mark—I got in bird's eye fashion a glimpse of their hard lives. They were foul with dirt; year in and year out the grime of their hard labor was on them; their "homes" were bitter scant of even necessary furnishings; their food was of the coarsest and poorest, and sometimes meagre in allowance. Heartily I say, and honestly, I cannot see what lure to live keeps thousands of these folk on earth that from first to last proves nothing but a trap to catch and kill their comfort. With nothing save privation and unease in the present, with a future the merest wolf's mouth full of a black voracity to devour them and theirs, I cannot learn the hope nor what it feeds on that needs must spring eternal to keep these people living.

Something and much should be done for the uplifting and the protection of these poor work people, and for two reasons. As a first, I find them as capable of refined life, as tender, as full of sympathy, as eagerly appreciative of all that is true or good or beautiful as any who will rustle it in silk or don the social harness of a dress suit in New York to-night.

For the second, they are a danger and a menace as they are. I've not forgotten that in 1877 the mob rose, riot awoke, scores of lives went out, seventy-five millions of property was destroyed, and all in a handful of days right here in this city where I sit and write. It was all like torch to tow. The tow is still here; beware how the torch of other hunger-bred, want-born insanity is set to it.

Danger in the Saxon Wrath.

One should study the race these people come from. It is for the main of sombre, Saxon strain. Its fathers in their hour of wrath have toppled thrones and set their angry heels on empires. And for all its silence and its apparent civilized order that same savage Saxon race lives unabated. And to-day, given cause and motion, it will bear down all before it, and do such deeds of utter cruelty, run loose with such a sublimity of ferocity, so spite blood and so elaborate destruction, that the wildest acts of the Paris Commune would bleach white by comparison.

Those who are to handle a Saxon should be sure of two matters. They should keep his stomach full and shelter him warm and dry. Your Saxon will abide sullenly much mishandling. But starve him three days, take from him at any time his last nine meals, and the most savage beast is tame beside him. And yet slowly, though no less certainly, by the "cuts" of such as the Jones-Laughlin Company, by their tariff and their money laws, which are crushing the whole country in their folds as preliminary to swallowing it up, we are bringing the work folk to that day of breadless hunger when no one will look in their eyes without fear.

Did you note how a mob swept law before it as a torrent might a dam at Urbana? And yet they only fought to hang a negro, after all. It will be a more popular casus belli when a mob rises, as it thinks, to save itself.

Some Figures to Ponder Over.

Look at this: The Jones-Laughlin Company, by its own private figure, has invested in its works four millions of dollars. The best and most conservative of disinterested authority puts the value of the Jones-

WHAT SENATORS SAY.

To Journal Representatives at Washington They Give Their Views on Labor's Hard Conditions.

Hanna Declares That Prosperity Will Return.

"I am not disposed to talk in detail of the reported deplorable condition said to exist among wage earners in Ohio and Pennsylvania in particular, and throughout the country in general. The Administration, however, feels the load of responsibility, and every one must acknowledge that it is doing its utmost to effect a rejuvenation of present commercial ills.

"Prosperity will return. When the Tariff bill passes I look to see times improve almost immediately. There will be a better feeling all round and the chief campaign promise of the Republican party—that prosperity should supercede prostration—will have been realized."

Sherman Says That the Times Are Better Now.

"I believe that there is some depression out in Ohio, but as soon as we get a tariff law that will give the Government sufficient revenue to pay its debts and give necessary protection, we will see a great improvement.

"I believe the financial question has a great deal to do with this State of affairs. Any man who has money would be a fool to risk it as long as there is a chance of his being paid in silver. I think, however, that the Tariff law will have a very favorable effect on trade. I think it is obvious to every unprejudiced reader that times are better to-day than they were two months ago."

Foraker Says It Is No Fault of Republicans.

"Times may not have improved as rapidly and generally as most of us would like to see, but then it is no fault of the Republican party and its leaders. They have the interests and welfare of this great country at heart. They want good times as much as any man. Furthermore, they will see that prosperity returns.

"It will only be a short time now when the business and industrial world gets on its feet again. One of the chief panaceas needed to accomplish this herculean task is the passage of the Tariff bill, which will soon be a reality."

Fairbanks Notices Signs of a Reaction.

"Is it any wonder that prosperity has not returned? When the Republican party took charge, the country was sick almost unto death. But the Republican doctors have not despaired. Already the wisdom of the treatment is beginning to tell, and already there are unmistakable signs of reaction.

"This great panacea with which the Republicans will finally effect a miraculous cure is the tariff bill, which before many days will have become a law. It will produce new life, new energy, new confidence and a brighter and newer prosperity will be the direct result of the Republicans' noble effort to make this land flow with milk and honey."

Cullom Can See Something Bright Ahead.

"I have seen the stories of distress as they have been published, and suppose the accounts in the Journal are only accurate stories of what the gentleman says. "But I think I can see something brighter ahead. If I am mistaken, I am sorry for the people."

Mason Places the Blame on Senate Tardiness.

"I know the people are suffering, but the trouble lies with the American House of Lords. People do not believe that this House of Lords intends to pass the Tariff bill. There seems to be a conspiracy in the Senate to keep this bill back. A number of us have swallowed schedules that we believe are all wrong just to help the bill through.

"If the people could only believe that the Tariff bill was going to be passed times would get better. Money is like blood, as Alsop said, but if the blood is not circulating freely through the veins the body is not in good condition. It has been the great delay in passing the Tariff bill that has caused all the further misery that the Journal men have found in Ohio and Pennsylvania."

Ghandler Looks to Silver for Prosperity.

"I have seen the letters of Messrs. Lewis and Creelman in to-day's Journal. I do not know whether the statements are exaggerated or not, but I do know that I am not one of those who have asserted that a new tariff would cure existing evils. A tariff law is necessary for the purpose of revenue, but it will not change hard times into prosperity simply because such a statute is put on the books.

"I know that the peoples of other countries are suffering as much as ours. This is a worldwide condition, brought about by the demonization of silver. Until we secure the free coinage of silver it is useless to expect good times. The measure of value is false, therefore prices are wrong. I believe we will secure the free coinage of silver by international agreement with France, Germany, Russia and England. When this is attained we can hope for prosperity, but without it the tariff will only have a temporary and small effect."

Perkins Has Faith in the Tariff Remedy.

"The people are all waiting for the Tariff bill to pass. If it does not bring prosperity I am willing to acknowledge our mistake and go in for some other remedy. There is, and has been a lack of confidence that this has caused all the suffering and hard times we have had and are having. Even now the people will not feel sure of the future until the Tariff bill has become a law.

"There is so much tariff delay, there are so many changes that the patience of the people is almost worn out and we can expect nothing else than such reports from Ohio and Pennsylvania. Let the people once feel that the Tariff bill has become a law and you will see a change for the better."

Elkins Says Distress Is Due to Tariff Delay.

The misery the gentlemen of the Journal are finding in Ohio and Pennsylvania is due entirely to the delay in passing the Tariff bill. The manufacturers and merchants out there have held out as long as they could, hoping that the bill would be passed. If they had thought that the bill would not pass this present action would have been taken long ago.

"I think I can see some signs of returning prosperity in my own State. Out on our railroad in West Virginia we are moving more coal, coke and lumber than we have for many years. All our mines are running full time, and all this would not be the case unless there was some one who wanted our products and who saw something ahead."

Laughlin Company plant to me at \$1,500,000. Their profits are large, and they add a vast deal of gratuitous value to their valuation as an excuse for those profits. Incidentally, the Jones-Laughlin Company will not tell the tax valuation it puts on its property. Still, incidentally, I was prevented from finding out, albeit I went to the proper public office for that end.

Let us take it as true that the Jones-Laughlin Company have invested \$1,500,000. Now what of the men? The old English law was wont to say that the life of a man was too precious for money estimate. In our more practical statutes, in case of accidental killing, we fix the value of a human life at \$5,000. Taken, then, that estimate of our lack-sentiment statutes. Five thousand dollars for a human life!

At that rate the 3,200 striking work folk of the Jones-Laughlin Company are worth in the aggregate \$16,000,000, more than tenfold the Jones-Laughlin investment. And yet, what with low wage, what with lost time, the average earnings of these folk are not greater than \$400 a year for each workman, or a total of \$1,280,000. This on a capital of living, breathing, perishing flesh and blood of \$16,000,000!

Capital vs. Flesh and Blood.

What the members of the Jones-Laughlin Company take in as profit on that hard, insensate investment of \$1,500,000, which they call \$4,000,000, I don't know. I cannot count their bank account. I only know I found them living like kings, lapped in utter luxury. I was told that the annual aggregate profit to these members of the Jones-Laughlin Company was full \$900,000. And they privately live in a royal fashion that much justifies this estimate. There are the figures; make your comparison and say whether justice is done. And this, too, is one of those pet vampires called a "protected industry."

Take Carnegie's Homestead works. They call them worth \$6,000,000. A good judge says \$1,200,000. These works carry over 3,000 men. The Carnegie's invest \$400; the workman invests himself. The Oates Commission reported that the workman averaged \$600 a year. This is not much, yet it is a fourth too high. Five hundred dollars would have been a nearer shot. Yet Carnegie is privately worth over \$100,000,000, and his huddle of partners, the Abbots, the Phippses, the Fricks, the Lovejoys and the Leishmans, are worth together \$100,000,000 more; all hon profits of thirty years.

It bears out my informant when he tells me that on those \$400, which the Carnegies set in as balance to the man who puts himself in the game, the Carnegies take down a yearly profit of over \$700, against the workman's \$500, as said above. And these figures make no account of those robberies by house rentals, those devourings by a "company store."

The Work of Protection.

Tell me, has justice held the scales in this? Does Carnegie get too much, or the man too little, or how, then? You of the public have a right to an opinion and to express it. I tell you that the Carnegies and their sort, with their white slaveries, are nursing that adder on the public bosom which may one day sting it to its death.

And yet McKinley, that advance agent of prosperity, says these

EMPIRE STATE HURT BY THE DEPRESSION.

Reports Show That the Failure of Prosperity to Appear Has Affected Thousands of Workingmen.

Toilers Seek in Vain for Employment on the Capitol at Albany—Troy's Great Stove Foundries Have Been Forced to Close Their Doors.

Albany, June 7.—The hundreds of skillful mechanics who yearly tread Albany's streets searching for work give emphatic denial to any assertion that better times have come to this city since the Republican promises of prosperity were made last fall. None of Albany's business men have hope of quick remedy.

The offices of Superintendent Aldridge, of the State Department of Public Works, and the offices of the Capitol contractors are visited every day by several hundred men begging for work. Scores of machinists, carpenters, masons and other tradesmen are soliciting employment as laborers on the new park. Not thirty new houses are being built in the city this Spring. Few mills and factories are operated in Albany, and of the few only the knit goods and linen industries are working full time.

Bathone, Saratoga and Co.'s store works, which formerly had 1,000 hands, are managed with a scant 200. Van Wormer & Co. and Littlefield, also stove manufacturers, get along with a small percentage of their former forces. So unfortunate have been manufacturing enterprises in this city that there is no encouragement for new manufacturing ventures, and the wealthy citizens are striving to make the town desirable for residential purposes.

Reduced wages are the rule here. The closing of the once prosperous stove factories, iron mills and shoe factories has given the city a plethora of idle men. Probably twenty per cent of Albany workmen are unemployed, notwithstanding the public works.

TROY FOUNDRIES CLOSED.

Other Iron Manufacturers There Have Greatly Cut Down Their Forces of Employees.

Troy, N. Y., June 7.—The Burden Iron Company formerly had 2,000 men on its payroll. One-half that number suffices now, and one of the two mills that the company owns, a steam and a water mill, the latter is not in operation at all.

The Troy Steel Company could give employment to 2,500 men, but some of the departments are entirely closed. The present force contains 900 names, covering departments whose full complement is 1,200.

folk, already bloated with their robber gains, must have higher "protection," and is to-day, with Hanna and Reed and Dingley and the whole black crew, moving the Congressional heaven and earth to give it them. What is the black magic by which these "employers" work?

Turn from the narrow picture of Pittsburgh to look at the whole country. Rome was ruled by a triumvirate; we are kinged over by a quartet of powers—the railroads, the banks, the mines and the manufacturing. Look at a map. The country is caught like a great fish in a seine of railroads. The cities are mere money camps, with banks as the citadels. These four name your Judges, they elect your Presidents, they control your Congresses. They make your laws, they construe your laws, they enforce—or fail to—your laws.

I was in Washington when four men of the corporations—I can name them—came from this city to Pittsburgh to wait privately on a Supreme Court Judge of this country. I know not what they said. I know not what they did. I know that the Judge reversed himself, departed from a position he had taken but a few weeks before, and made of himself that majority of the bench to strike down a great and just tax law of this land.

A prior court had decided the law valid, half the present court had decided it valid, this very Judge had decided it valid; and yet he turned and struck it down. Why? I don't know. I do know, however, that it was a law hateful to wealth and a source of tax wroth to our four rulers, the railroads, the banks, the mines and the manufacturing. So it fell, and, whatever he may think, no one may say more to this day.

But this is incidental and aside. What is the black wand, the magic by which these work people of Pittsburgh and elsewhere are stripped and bound and held to make bricks without straw by their employers? It is "Protection," for which McKinley, he who would rather start the manufacturing than the mints, stands sponsor.

Waste to Keep Tariff Up.

It all comes of taxing to make a few select people rich rather than to tax to merely meet the expenses of government. These "protectionists" dare not produce a surplus by their taxing. And so, as they are bound to have a Himalayan tariff, they pile up the cost of government as a reason for a tariff. They will pay four prices to build a boat; they will create one hundred and fifty millions of pensions. This last is a bribe to the "soldier element." The "protected" industries give it gladly. It serves to increase the cost of government, and so makes the tariff excuse they must have; and finally they get these pensions again from the "soldier element" in the increase of price the tariff puts on their "protected" product.

That's why the cost of government to-day is \$9 per capita, when in Jackson's time it was \$1. That's why government to-day costs \$600,000,000 a year, when it need not, and should not, cost \$150,000,000. The protectionists' further extravagance and waste of public money, for every extra dollar spent is an extra reason for piling on a tariff. And so it comes that every article the workman consumes is multiplied in price to him by tax. And as greed has no boundaries, finding him helpless to their hands, having first raised the price of what he consumes by their tariff, these "protected" folk next cut down his wages. And that is why we have Carnegies worth \$100,000,000 from nothing in thirty years while their workmen and their children are pressed on by want.

It is not enough to say these workmen are free to leave their employment. Come here to Pittsburgh as I am here and talk with these workmen as I have talked, and you will see they are not free to leave. They are in chains and fetters to their environment. They have no money, they have a family, they know no other trade. Where could they go? How could they live? What could they do?

To-day as I went about the streets, I was told several things of interest. A manufacturer told me that even if in 1900 the people repealed the tariff law and cut taxes to revenue lines, the manufacturers would, in the four years meantime, have made enough. They intend their plunderings to be so large, both by tax and wage cutting, that in 1900 they can despoil a repeal. This same manufacturer said that the greatest fools in this country were the workmen.

Employers Grasp Too Much.

I cannot but think, however, as I at this time watched them crowd and crush labor to desperation, that the greatest fools are the men for whom the workmen work. They overplay their greed; they grasp too much; they don't leave the workmen's destinies worth working out. And so we have an army of tramps where forty years ago we had none. The tramp, at least when out of jail, is free; the workman is in perpetual fetters.

Meanwhile "protection" thrives at Washington, and the "prosperity" promised takes the form of Jones-Laughlin Company "cuts" and workmen out of work. Meanwhile labor grows hollow-eyed and hungry. Meanwhile, in its own defence, the general public might better take measures to correct these starved conditions which I find all about me here, or it may some day find a tiger in its streets.

Observe a horse, that docile symbol of labor, as it yields to the reins and draws its load. That is law and order. Observe it as, with bit in teeth, blood-red nostril and eye of fury and fire, it rushes by to destructively hurl itself, crushing, crashing against anything that bars its frenzied course; was that a runaway? No; it was revolution.

COMMENT IN WASHINGTON

Representative Dalzell Says Upon the Tariff Depends the Return of Prosperity.

Washington, June 7.—The following statements show how the present hard times are commented upon here:

REPRESENTATIVE DALZELL, OF PENNSYLVANIA—I know that all of our people at Pittsburgh, Jones & Laughlin included, have been continuing their men in employment even at a loss, in the interest of the workmen, with the hope that they could tide over the present situation until better times came. I have no doubt at all that the continued depression of business has induced some of the manufacturers to lay off a portion of their men simply because they were unable to continue them at their present rate of wages.

I do not anticipate that the present condition of things is likely to endure, because I believe that with the settlement of the tariff question there will be a return to business prosperity, and that manufacturers then will be enabled to take on the hands that they are now obliged to discharge or reduce in wages.

REPRESENTATIVE PAYNE, OF NEW YORK—I am not one of those who have said that times have improved since McKinley's election. I believe some of the railroad presidents have said times are better; they are the persons the Journal should confront with these statements of Messrs. Lewis and Creelman. I do not believe we can have good times until we get the remedy for hard times—the tariff bill enacted into law.

Hard Times for an Organ Company.

Meriden, Conn., June 7.—The Wilcox & White Organ Company made an assignment to-day. During the past five years the company has done a business of about \$275,000 a year. The factory has been closed and 120 hands are out of employment.

Maxwell's Hangman Inmate. St. Louis, Mo., June 7.—Michael Fortin, the man who hanged Walter H. Lennox Maxwell, the slayer of Arthur Preller, has been taken to the Insane Asylum, his mind having gone wrong from constant brooding over what was one of the most notable cases ever tried in St. Louis.

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